ensure that the vessels comply with relevant safety standards as per various International Conventions and the Rules made under Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

Amendment in Merchant Shipping Act

3048. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to amend the Merchant Shipping Act to enable them to acquire the much-needed tonnage for replacement and expansion if so, and the details thereof;

(b) what would be the basis of amendment, if any and the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the amendment, would ease borrowing for Indian Shipping Industry from abroad since financial institutions had been hesitant in giving loans to them, if so the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposed amendments relate to the provisions regarding registration of ships and foreclosure of mortgages. Since bulk of the ships required for the national trade are acquired by the Indian shipowners from abroad, they are critically dependent on the availability of foreign exchange. International Banks, financial institutions are both willing and in a position to provide funds to the Indian ship owners provided the provisions regarding registration of ships and the foreclosure of mortgages, which are perceived as impediments by them to recover their loan in the event of default in repayment, are amended.

Port and Dock Employees Association, Visakhapatnam

3049. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Port and Dock Employees Association, Visakhapatnam have not been called for any negotiations by the Port Management even though minor unions like The National Port Trust Employees Union and Port & Dock Workers Union with comparatively less membership have been called for such negotiations by the Management;

(b) if so, what are the reasons; and

(c) whether Government would consider directing Visakhapatnam Port Trust Management to extend similar treatment as per the law which has been extended to minor unions, if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The Management of Visakhapatnam Port Trust calls only four trade unions which are recognised from the time of formation of the Port Trust. This does not include the Port and Dock Employees Association. No other unions have been recognised thereafter by the Port Management. However, the Port Trust is allowing the Port and Dock Employees Association, Visakhapatnam to explain their issues to the Chairman, whenever the Association demands so.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Passes Issued by D.T.C.

3050. SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Transport Authority of Delhi has issued some instructions through Press in July, 1993 to owners of 'Suvidha Buses Operators' to honour all categories of passes issued by D.T.C.;

(b) if so, the details of these instructions;

(c) whether S.T.A. of Delhi has also given a number of Telephone number viz. 230782 asking the pass holders to report to STA in case their passes are not honoured by Suvidha Bus Operators;

(d) if so, details thereof and procedure for taking action on such complaints;

(e) whether it is a fact that the pass holders are not being permitted to travel against their passes by Suvidha Operators;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the words 'All passes are allowed' have not been written on these Suvidha buses despite STA's instructions;

(g) whether Government propose to take some action against these operators;

(h) whether Government also propose to take some action for writing Route numbers and destination by these operators in case pass holders are not allowed to travelling; and

(i) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor ?